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8 SEP 1962
 26 Sep 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
 SUBJECT: Streamlining the NIS Program

1. At the suggestion of the Executive Committee, I have studied the NIS Program to determine whether the large workload and budgetary expenditures are essential and whether chronic deficiencies in coverage and timeliness can be remedied.
2. A description (summarized from Office of Basic Intelligence, with enclosure) of the present status of the Program and current efforts to complete major elements of the NIS rapidly by selective summary coverage is appended.
3. I think the Program is moving in the right direction and efforts to simplify treatment and improve coverage are commendable. It seems to me, however, that more needs to be done to streamline the Program and provide complete, reasonably up-to-date coverage of all strategic areas of the world.
4. I believe the NIS Program has been led astray by its effort to cover the USSR in a detailed and expeditious manner. The outline and mode of treatment appropriate to the USSR is obviously not entirely suited for the multitude of smaller countries on which rather simple general surveys are required. More important, the NIS Program has erred, in my opinion, by trying to create in comparatively transient political materials which cannot possibly be kept up-to-date under the current ponderous coordination and publication procedure of the NIS Program. Thus the persistent problem of obsolescence results from including subjects which are of no value as intelligence unless quite current.
5. NSCIB #1 defines basic intelligence as "that factual intelligence which results from the collation of encyclopedic information of a fundamental and more or less permanent nature and which as a result of evaluation and interpretation is determined to be the best available."

6. A review of the HHS Standard Instructions suggests that the following portions of the HHS concern information of a fundamental and more or less permanent nature: military geography, transportation and telecommunications, static structural elements only of the sociological, political and economic Chapters, the map and chart appraisal, and the Supplements dealing with ports and naval facilities, coasts and landing beaches, and urban areas. The HHS units on marine climate and oceanography also appear to concern information of a more or less permanent nature. I would expect that some of these units would go out of date as quickly that they could not be handled in a static maintenance program.

7. On the other hand, it appears to me that most of the political Chapter, most of the scientific Chapter, the Chapter dealing with the armed forces, large parts of the economic and sociological Chapters, the Supplement on communism, and the HHS on International Communism are likely to have to deal with subject matter that changes at a much more rapid rate than is contemplated in the concept of basic intelligence set forth in the definition or in the current maintenance program of the HHS. Naturally some of these subjects will remain relatively stable for some areas of the world, but they are most likely to remain stable in the least important areas of the world and likely to change most rapidly in very high-priority areas. The intelligence community has considerable assets devoted to the production of various forms of current intelligence, and this machine is capable of doing good work on current political, sociological and economic developments in all the countries of the world of strategic interest to the United States. It can schedule production on these countries in accord with actual requirements rather than as a matter of encyclopedic tidiness of coverage. I see no point in trying to make an encyclopedia compete with a daily newspaper for the coverage of these subjects.

8. It is also obvious from the proliferation of handbooks, such as the DWP TAB studies, the Army Special Warfare Area Handbook series and others, that the HHS Program does not include all of the more or less permanent type information that might be useful to planners and operators. In part this is true because the current HHS Program tends to produce research that is too

highly classified to be useful in some field situations. A strenuous effort should be made to produce as much as possible of the NIS on an unclassified basis. External research should be conducted for wherever feasible. Some subjects of critical importance, however, should be covered by highly classified research that could be downgraded to a more usable level in the event of a national emergency.

9. I believe the NIS Program could be put on a more streamlined and effective basis if the following steps were taken:

a. Direct the NIS outline of all of the items of a more or less permanent nature such as those listed in paragraph 7 above.

b. Review the needs of the users both in Washington and overseas to insure that the outline includes all items of a more or less permanent nature required in the military and intelligence operations likely to be encountered by the U.S. Government in the foreseeable future.

c. Direct that research studies prepared in support of the NIS be labeled as such, and published immediately upon completion by the contributing agency. These sections would not be republished as part of the NIS but would be used as source material in the preparation of the NIS in a new format.

d. The NIS as such should be reduced to the scope of the present Chapter I, plus some of the material now contained in various supplements.

e. Direct that appropriate parts of the intelligence community produce the necessary current studies to cover the needs of the U.S. Government for information on the politics, economy, science and armed forces of the various countries of concern to U.S. policy.

10. The outline finally adopted for the streamlined NIS Program should be developed on the basis of careful interagency study, but I would anticipate that, in accordance with the principles outlined in paragraph 9 above, the new outline would look something like the following:

National Intelligence Survey - Country I

A concise statement of the more or less permanent aspects of the following:

- Section a.** Significance of the area
- Section b.** Military geography
- Section c.** Transportation and telecommunications
- Section d.** Basic sociology
- Section e.** Political structure (Section 51, 52, stable parts of structure of variables and general character of subversive threats)
- Section f.** Basic economic characteristics of the area, including petroleum industry
- Section g.** Scientific level of development
- Section h.** Armed forces
- Section i.** Map and chart appendix

Supplement I. Ports and naval facilities

Supplement II. Quotas and landing beaches

Supplement III. Urban areas

II. Naturally the NIS on the USSR will continue to be a monumental effort and the sections may be published in separate volumes. On most countries, however, the NIS proper would constitute a single slim volume not much larger than the present Chapter I treatment, with Supplements of varying lengths.

III. The subject matter of remaining sections of the NIS dealing with more rapidly changing features of foreign countries, such as political dynamics, status of subversive efforts and influence of communism in the country, should be dealt with by current intelligence components of the intelligence community. CIA is prepared to do its part.

IV. The proposal outlined above should enable the intelligence community to produce a National Intelligence Survey that is truly basic in nature, which will remain up-to-date for longer periods of time, and which could be renewed with considerably less effort than the current program. At the same time, this proposal would retain one of the best features of the NIS Program in that it would still require the organized production of supporting research by the most competent elements of the U.S. Government.

18. I recommend that the above matter be placed on the
OSD agenda and that the Coordination Staff be directed to prepare
the necessary plans for this purpose. By this means, some prior
coordination with the community can be achieved and OSD action
hopefully expedited.

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██████████
Deputy Director (Intelligence)

Enclosure:

From: Office of Radio Intelligence

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